**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE ENGLISH CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

**HELD IN THE DICK SHEPPARD CHAPEL OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHURCH**

**AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 2024**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Prayer. | The Revd Cassa Messervy opened the meeting with prayer. |
|  |  |
| 1. Apologies | Apologies were received for absence from a number of members, a list of whom is attached hereto, together with a list of members present at the meeting. |
|  |  |
| 1. Minutes | The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 13th June 2023 having been distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record thereof. |
|  |  |
| 1. Matters arising | Mr A Jennings requested an update on whether some bursary case studies had been publicised as suggested under item 12 of the previous minutes. The need to respect privacy was highlighted but it was confirmed that the valuable bursary work was highlighted as appropriate in our Journal. Comment was also made appreciating the work of the Campaign group and encouraging this as an area to take forward. |
|  |  |
| 1. Annual Council Report and Accounts. | The Hon. Treasurer, The Revd Canon Peter Johnson, presented the Association’s Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2023. He commented that the Account showed a continuing ongoing deficit of around £2000 per annum and had done so for a number of years. The rate of the Deposit Account interest had been increased but not sufficiently to compensate for this. The accounts were approved unanimously with the Revd Cassa Messervy proposing and the Reverend Canon Derek Earis seconding. |
|  |  |
| 1. Benefit Fund Report and Accounts. | The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Trustees of the Benefit Fund for 2023 were put before the meeting by the Hon. Treasurer by way of information. He reported that the Benefit Fund has given out about £30,000 for the year divided between 49 recipients. About ¾ of its assets are held in stocks and shares on our behalf by GHC and ¼ held at CCLA. The finances of the Benefit Fund are in a healthy state and enable us to fulfil its objects. The meeting was also reminded that part of a life interest in an estate is due to the Fund on the death of the donor and the current position regarding this is being investigated by our solicitors. |
|  |  |
| 1. Change in Annual Subscription. | The Chairman reported that the Subscription has been £15 per annum for some time. Costs have increased and we have an annual deficit and the Council recommended a rate of £20 with £10 for retired members. Some are still paying at previous outdated rates. This change was proposed by Dr Peter Smith and seconded by The Revd Cassa Messervy and unanimously approved. As part of the new rate members would be encouraged to adjust their Standing Orders to January of each year to cover 1st January to 31st December. The wording of this request would be put in the Journal and will be finalised between The Revd Alec Brown (editor), Dr Peter Smith and The Revd Canon Peter Johnson (Treasurer). It was commented that “one off” donations can also be made to both the Council and the Trust although because only the Trust is a charity Gift Aid can only be claimed on the latter. |
|  |  |
| 1. Election of Honorary Officers | Chair: Dr Peter Smith had given notice that, after serving as Chairman for ten years, he did not wish to stand. Proposed by The President, Professor Sir Anthony Milnes Coates, endorsed by the Council, The Revd Cassa Messervy was elected as Chair. Dr Peter Smith was thanked for his guidance over many years and his outstanding service to the Association and a “Thank You” card presented as a token of our appreciation.  Vice-chair: Dr Peter Smith agreed to serve as Vice-Chairman to help and support the new Chair.  Treasurer: The Revd Canon Peter Johnson was proposed by the Council as Hon. Treasurer and was duly elected by the meeting.  Hon Almoner: The Revd Richard Hall, having resigned as Hon Almoner after 16 years in the office, was thanked by the meeting for all his support to the Association in carrying out this important role. There being no nominations for the office of Hon Almoner, the office remains vacant, to be filled by the Council. |
|  |  |
| 1. Election of Members of Council to match vacancies/retirements. | The system of electing a third of the Council each year had been disrupted by Covid. On the recommendation of the Council the following number of years having been randomly allocated by lot was allocated to different members:-  The Revd Canon Derek Earis 3 years  The Revd Alec Brown 2 years  The Revd Mark Binney 2 years  Mr Anthony Jennings 2 years  The Revd Canon Simon Godfrey 1 year.  Dr Peter Smith 1 year.  This change was proposed by Dr Peter Smith and seconded by Professor Sir Anthony Milnes-Coates and unanimously approved. |
|  |  |
| 1. Election of Vice-President | There were no Candidates proposed for election as Vice-President |
| 1. Independent Examiner | After being proposed by The Revd. Canon Peter Johnson and seconded by The Revd Mark Binney, the reappointment of Critchley’s as independent examiners of the accounts was confirmed. |
|  |  |
| 1. Any Other Business | It was suggested by The Revd Canon Derek Earis that The Church Times be approached to write a back page article highlighting the appointment of The Revd Cassa Messervy as our new Chair of the Association. It was agreed that this would be excellent publicity and highlight our work. The President, Professor Sir Anthony Milnes Coates undertook to write to them. |
|  |  |
|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.30pm |

Present at the AGM, 11th June 2024

Professor Sir Anthony Milnes-Coates

Mr Nigel Pullman

The Revd Fayaz Adman

Dr Peter Smith

The Revd. Cassa Messervy

The Revd Canon Peter Johnson

The Revd Mark Binney

The Revd Canon Derek Earis

The Revd Alec Brown

Mr Anthony Jennings

Apologies

The Revd Stefanie Hodges

The Revd John Ryder

The Revd Roger Knight

The Revd Canon David Jennings

Mrs Margaret Marshall

The Ven David Picken

The Rt Revd Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth

The Revd Canon Dr Rob Kelsey

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London

Mr William Holden

Ms Ruth H Bird

The Revd Dr Melanie Marshall

The Revd Canon Clive W Jones

The Revd Richard Hall

Ms Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

The Revd Canon Simon Godfrey